

Our ref: MMC/GHR

15 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Young people in the academy have been superb this week and we have seen a really calm and purposeful atmosphere. It has been particularly pleasing to see enrichment clubs start again with some exciting plans in the works. Updates are below on some key areas

Buses Update

We are now able to confirm that the First number 15 service arriving at Hatter Drive at 8:25am has been revised and from today (Friday 15th September) it arrives at 8:15 am in an effort to support with any over boarding on the earlier service. Our advice is for students to catch the earlier service arriving at Hatter Drive at 7:57 am to ensure they arrive at the Academy on time for the entry time of 8:20am.

We are happy to report that all students wishing to board the Cawthorne's 410 service over the past week have done so; the bus has not been over capacity. However, the First number 10 service will be rerouted up Tait Avenue and into the Academy grounds from today (Friday 15th September) at 3:16 pm to assist with any over boarding on the Cawthorne 410 service.

Teaching and Learning

Homework

We know you are keen to support your child to complete their homework, but sometimes technology gets in the way – perhaps your child cannot remember how to log into Satchel One, or maybe they have lost their password? Perhaps you have lost your parent code for Satchel One?

We have attempted to remedy these potential barriers to homework with a letter providing your child's log in credentials, links to 'how to' guides for logging onto Satchel One and Sparx Maths, as well as your parent code for Show My Homework if you have not currently got one.

As always, homework club is available every day in BG13 until 15.40 for Y7, Y8, Y9, Y10 and 16.40 for Y11 should they wish to stay after period four.

Year 11 Achieve

Year 11 students have made a phenomenal start to the year, demonstrating their resilience up to the very final minute of Period 4 to ensure they are making the most of every second of the school day. Next week, Year 11 will start completing their live trials for Maths, English, and Science during lessons. The aim of the live trials is to provide students with the opportunity to work through exam papers with experienced examiners improve exam technique. Live trials will take place during lesson time and will continue throughout the run-up to the trial examinations taking place in November! In addition, we will be launching our GCSE revision app, Tassomai, with KS4 students, which will support their independent consolidation of English, Science, Geography, History and Computer Science.

Events and Enrichment

STWA Athletics Championships

Due to poor weather in July, we were disappointed to postpone our inaugural athletics championships at the Keepmoat stadium. We are excited to have rearranged and looking forward to celebrating the talents of our Y8-11 students with their parents at the Keepmoat athletics stadium next week on the evening of Friday 22nd September. Students have been invited to compete in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay on the floodlit track with cheerleading and gymnastic displays during the interludes. We are very much looking forward to celebrating individual successes at the end of the evening in the event's award ceremony.



With Me in Mind

On Thursday 22nd September, the team from With Me in Mind will be at the academy offering mental health and wellbeing support to any student who needs it. This will be the first of their termly visits to the academy this school year, and they will then be coming in regularly, once a month, to support our students.

Year 11 Revision Evening

We cannot wait to welcome our new Year 11 students and their parents and carers to our Year 11 Revision Evening on Tuesday 10th October, which includes:

- A presentation from leaders about Year 11, including key dates and events.
- A classroom-based session with form tutors about how best to revise.
- Every student receiving a bespoke pack of revision materials worth over £100.

The event will last approximately 1 hour, starting with a presentation at either 4.15pm or 5.15pm. Please use this form to register your attendance before Friday 22nd September: <https://forms.office.com/e/NgDS39jQTt>

Standards

It has been great to see so many people using ClassCharts to keep updated with students' progress at school. Please can we encourage all parents / carers to ensure they are checking ClassCharts daily. This will allow you to have conversations at home about your child's attitude and behaviour at school. Please do also use this to check if your child has a detention set.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be a strength of the academy and our new Y7 cohort have started strongly with an attendance of 98.8%. We will always strive for 100% attendance from every one of our young people to ensure they experience exceptional learning experiences daily which will ultimately lead them to securing successful outcomes.

At Sir Thomas Wharton Academy we encourage all pupils to strive for 100% attendance: every day and every lesson counts. Over the coming weeks you will see several rewards being awarded to students for excellent attendance, starting with our Attendance & Investment raffle. Students receive five entries every day they attend school; the more you attend the greater chance of winning you have. The first prizes up for grabs is a brand-new iPad.

Parents and Community Advisory Board

Our Parent & Community Advisory Board (PCAB) meets once a term with members of staff and the Senior Leadership team.

The PCAB has a dual purpose:

- It allows parents/carers and members of the community to provide feedback to Leaders on current systems, successes, and areas for development.
- It is an opportunity for the Academy to provide updates to our members on the progress we are making and share early thinking about upcoming developments.

Our first meeting will be on Wednesday 27th September at STWA 5pm – 6.30pm.

If you would like to join our PCAB, please email g.harris@stwacademy.com

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr. M McDonald
Principal

